



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glenwood Springs Field Office
Energy Office
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANS AND EIS RAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Glenwood Springs Field Office
Wednesday, November 7, 2007 (5:00PM – 7:30PM)
BLM Energy Office Conference Room

SUMMARY NOTES

Attendees: Michael Kennedy, Fiona Lloyd, Kurt Schulz, Tom Turnbull, Larry McCown, Steve Smith, Karen Witt, John Bailey, Chris Beebe, Greg Noss, Brian Hopkins (BLM), David Boyd (BLM), David Batts (EMPS Inc.), Angie Adams (Tetra Tech, Inc.).

Handouts:

- Agenda
- List of KFO participants on RAC Subcommittee
- List of GSFO participants on RAC Subcommittee
- RAC Subcommittee three-ring binder/notebook containing:
 - working draft vision (10/30/07)
 - scoping issue statements
 - draft management unit map of GSFO and KFO (10/29/07)
 - draft scoping comments summarized by resource/resource uses to assist in alternatives development (11/2/07)
 - scoping information packet for GSFO
 - pages 2 through 22 of the North-central Colorado Community Assessment Report for the BLM GSFO and KFO (March 2007)
- Draft functioning of the Cooperating Agencies and Resource Advisory Council Subgroup (11/6/07)
- Printed slides from slideshow: "Overview of the Project and Planning Process"
- Highlights of the RMP process to date (November 2007)
- Alternative development process flowchart

WELCOME

David Batts welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. Round robin of introductions.

RAC SUBCOMMITTEE FUNCTIONS, CHARTER, AND ROLE

- **What BLM needs, Tasks, and General functioning of RAC SG:** See handout "Draft functioning of the Cooperating Agencies and Resource Advisory Council Subgroup (11/6/07)."
 - There are three BLM Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) in Colorado. This group tonight is a subcommittee of the Northwest RAC. The RACs provide feedback on planning processes or projects being done throughout the region they cover. The RAC makes formal recommendations to the BLM. There also are Cooperating Agencies participating in the RMP revision process. Both the Cooperating Agencies and the RAC Subcommittee will provide feedback on the process; BLM will make final decisions and determinations. Feedback from the

- RAC Subcommittee will be made through the RAC (via the RAC representatives on the subcommittee) to the BLM.
- RAC is a formal group for which members are formally approved by Secretary of the Interior
- RAC Subcommittee is a formal group also. Names of members are recognized; other representatives can attend but are not formally recognized.
- Next RAC meeting is in Glenwood Springs from 8am-3pm on November 14, 2007. Public is invited to attend. Will include a half-day field tour.
- **Role of RAC members on subcommittee:** Does this RAC Subcommittee want to appoint a chairperson or co-chairpersons to help organize and report back to RAC in addition to the RAC representative?
 - Nomination for Steve Smith and Tom Turnbull to be co-chairpersons. RAC Subcommittee agreed.
 - How does this RAC Subcommittee want to go through meetings – formally or informally? Informal is preferred. RAC Subcommittee meetings will provide feedback on how meetings can be better conducted, etc.
- **Schedule:** want to meet at least once in December 2007, twice in January 2008, and twice in February 2008. Meetings are announced in *Federal Register* two weeks in advance, so meetings scheduled in advance are a necessity.
- **FACA (Federal Advisory Committee Act) issues:** RAC Subcommittee meetings are always open to the public. There will be an opportunity at the end of each meeting where the public can comment.
- **Define quorum:** RAC quorum is defined as at least 9 out of 15 members representing a broad representation. How to define a quorum for this RAC Subcommittee will be discussed at future meetings.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW (slideshow)

- Refer to handout of printed slides from slideshow, “Overview of the Project and Planning Process”
- Forest Service planning process is somewhat different than BLM’s planning process, particularly where alternatives are concerned.
- Will provide RAC Subcommittee a copy of Appendix C of BLM’s Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1).
- Goal of doing Glenwood Springs and Kremmling Field Offices RMP revisions together is to capture the synergy across the two administrative boundaries.
- Refer to handout “Highlights of the RMP process to date (November 2007)”
- Refer to handout “Alternative development process” flowchart

PLANNING PROCESS TO DATE

- Refer to handout “Highlights of the RMP process to date (November 2007)”

REVIEW OF THE WORKING DRAFT MANAGEMENT UNIT BOUNDARIES

- Refer to “draft management unit map of GSFO and KFO (10/29/07)” in front cover of three-ring binder. These units are draft. Only the yellow areas are BLM. Units are based on results of the North-central Colorado Community Assessment Report for the BLM GSFO and KFO (March 2007) and BLM interdisciplinary team input.
- The only thing this GSFO/KFO RMP will determine for the Roan Plateau RMP area is wild and scenic rivers suitability. The remaining decisions in that unit have already been made in the recent Roan Plateau RMP.
- Lower Colorado River management unit: existing emphasis is oil and gas development.
- Rifle-Elk Creeks management unit: dispersed recreation, hunting, has not changed much in past 20 years. Is unique area from other management units.
- Glenwood Springs-Roaring Fork Valley management unit: BLM is backyard recreation area. Emphasis area for recreation, wildlife, aesthetics.
- Eagle-Gypsum management unit: very similar to Glenwood Springs-Roaring Fork Valley management unit with emphasis on recreation, wildlife, and aesthetics, except that valleys are different. Potentially could combine unit with Glenwood Springs-Roaring Fork Valley management unit at later time.
- Deep Creek management unit: valued for its natural and cultural resources. Less use. Harder to access.

- Upper Colorado River Corridor management unit: includes Castle Peak. Some destination recreation. Recreation, grazing, wildlife emphasis. Management unit extends into KFO.
- Comments from RAC Subcommittee:
 - Are we coordinating with Grand Junction Field Office? There are minimal issues that cross the boundaries: grazing, gas development, and sensitive plants. There is a lot of private land around boundary. Grand Junction Field Office will be revising their RMP in the next year or two. BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office has to determine management on lands west of Roan Plateau and north of I-70 during this planning process; cannot defer decisions to Grand Junction Field Office.
 - Are there other example RMPs that would help us through this process? BLM will bring samples to the next RAC Subcommittee meeting.
 - Is there a list of Cooperating Agencies? Refer to list in Community Assessment Report in binder; everyone on that list is Cooperating Agency except Routt County; Denver Water and Summit County also are becoming Cooperating Agencies. David read list of Cooperating Agencies. BLM will provide list of Cooperating Agencies to RAC Subcommittee. Forest Service declined being a Cooperating Agency.
 - Approximately 98% of GSFO has already been leased. If a lease expires and offered for bid again, then it falls under the jurisdiction of this RMP.

RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION

- Refer to handout “alternative development process” flowchart
- Refer to handout “scoping issue statements” in front cover of three-ring binder.
 - RAC Subcommittee needs to consider if these cover the range of issues that need to be covered in this process. We will discuss this in more detail at our next meeting.

NEXT STEPS

- What RAC Subcommittee wants to see at December meeting:
 - We will present soil/water/air, wildlife, recreation alternatives (common to all management units) to Cooperating Agencies at December meeting and get their feedback. Same process could work for RAC Subcommittee – presentation and discussion/feedback. RAC Subcommittee will be presented the same topics as the Cooperating Agencies at various meetings so the two groups track together. If that approach does not seem to be working, we will modify the process.
 - Present Colorado Division of Wildlife information, maps, etc. as part of alternatives development at the December meeting. Colorado Division of Wildlife can be invited to RAC Subcommittee as needed to meetings about certain areas, etc.
 - If we realize later through presentations of various resource/resource uses that it affects a topic we previously covered, then we can go back and make changes as needed.
 - This group will focus on those resources/resource uses that are the issues, such as those captured by the “scoping issue statements” handout.
 - We are focusing on the range of alternatives through this process.
 - The basis of what the alternatives build on is the draft scoping comments summarized by handout “resource/resource uses to assist in alternatives development (11/2/07).”
- Next GSFO Cooperating Agency meetings are scheduled as follows during the day. Next RAC Subcommittee meetings will also be on these days; all RAC Subcommittee meetings will be 5:00pm – 7:30pm. RAC Subcommittee members will email Brian Hopkins with any meeting date concerns (cc co-chairpersons Steve Smith and Tom Turnbull):
 - Wednesday, December 5, 2007
 - Wednesday, January 16, 2008
 - Wednesday, January 30, 2008
 - Wednesday, February 6, 2008
 - Wednesday, February 20, 2008

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Consider future opportunities to have joint meetings between Cooperating Agencies and RAC Subcommittee, if needed.

- Roads for oil and gas development are not useable by the greater public. Travel management planning process can consider if those routes should be made available to the public or closed, etc.
- If RAC Subcommittee sees a need for the group to take a field trip and/or go visit sites on their own time, is there a list of areas? During scoping, the most comments were received on the Crown and Thompson Creek. The RAC will be visiting the Crown as part of November 2007 meeting. There also is a citizen's group to discuss recreation and travel management specifically on the Crown. RAC Subcommittee comments: there are problems with bandit trails, etc., and it is good that the Crown is being addressed as part of this plan.
 - Michael Kennedy offered to take RAC Subcommittee field trip to Thompson Creek. Brian Hopkins will email RAC Subcommittee email contact list, and Michael will send out potential dates for field trip.
 - RAC is visiting the Crown during their November 14, 2007. If RAC Subcommittee members want to attend, then members should contact David Boyd at BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office.
- Would it be useful to visit some oil and gas development sites to determine lessons learned on writing management prescriptions for future leases that expire? It might be useful. BLM oil and gas specialists can present information at future RAC Subcommittee meetings and arrange field trips as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/QUESTIONS

- None.
- At future meetings, move this to beginning of agenda.

ACTION ITEMS/NEXT MEETING

- ☐ For future meeting dates, see "Next Steps" above.
- ☐ **David/Angie:** on next meeting agenda, need to include how to define a quorum for this Subcommittee; need to define a number that is adequate representation.
- ☐ **David/Angie:** bring several sample RMPs to next RAC Subcommittee meeting.
- ☐ **Brian:** Email November 7, 2007, meeting notes and RMP website address to RAC Subcommittee.
- ☐ **Brian/David:** Prior to December 5, 2007, meeting, email RAC Subcommittee the following:
 - Agenda
 - Appendix C of BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1)
 - List of Cooperating Agencies
 - Alternatives matrix sections for soil/water/air, wildlife, and recreation (common to all management units).
- ☐ **David/Angie:** on next meeting agenda, need to include more-detailed discussion of the "scoping issue statements" and if these cover the range of issues that need to be covered in this process.
- ☐ **David/Angie:** on future meeting agendas, move "Public Comments/Questions" to beginning of agenda.

AMA – November 7, 2007